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Retiring Massachusetts Governor Joins Dulles Feb. 1; Appointment Pleases Foreign Policy Liberals

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Staff Reporter

Retiring Gov. Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts was named yesterday by President Eisenhower to succeed Herbert Hoover Jr., as Under Secretary of State, a change expected to strengthen the liberal wing of the Administration in the conduct of American foreign policy.

While Herter, a 61-year-old "Eisenhower Republican" who served 10 years in the House of Representatives before two terms as governor, flatly denied the appointment might be a stepping stone to even more important posts, the view is widespread both in and outside the Administration that he probably would succeed Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, now 68, should the Secretary's health force him to retire.

The appointment, due to take effect Feb. 1, was the first major change by the President for his second Administration. The contrast between Herter, who gained fame for his House work leading to the Marshall Plan's adoption, and Hoover, the ultraconservative son of the former President, could hardly be greater within the ranks of the Republican Party to which both belong.

Herter will complete his governorship Jan. 3, take a short vacation with his wife and come to Washington Jan. 14 for two weeks of briefings at State before taking over the new post. The appointment is subject to Senate confirmation but there appeared no doubt of that. Liberals and conservatives of both parties yesterday praised the nomination.

Praised by Ike

In a "Dear Herbert" letter to Hoover, President Eisenhower expressed "deep regret" at the resignation. He praised Hoover's "outstanding ability and dedication," said the Department had acted "with distinction" under Hoover as Acting Secretary during Dulles' recent illness, expressed his "gratitude" and said "I have personally felt a great confidence and satisfaction" in working with Hoover.

Hoover's letter to the President said "some months ago" he had told Dulles of his desire to return "to private life" and to resume "my career in engineering," a desire he "put aside temporarily" when Dulles was stricken. He said his three years of Government service (both as a special assistant in the Iranian oil dispute and as Under Secretary since August, 1954) had been "a most stimulating and rewarding experience."

Invited to Meetings

Mr. Eisenhower reported once had Hoover's name on a list of bright young Republicans of presidential timber. He invited Hoover to sit at two televised Cabinet gatherings. But he reportedly had lost some confidence in Hoover over his handling of the Saudi Arabia tank row a year ago and over other matters. During the Middle East crisis and Dulles' hospitalization Mr. Eisenhower at times resorted to writing diplomatic cables himself.

The new Under Secretary, if Washington yesterday for Gridiron Club dinner, told newsmen he was "naturally delighted to be a part of the Eisenhower team and the State Department." But he flatly

Other Changes Expected

The Herter appointment to the number two job at State is normally an administrative post but increasingly important because of Dulles' frequent trips and now because of his recent illness, is the most important of several departmental changes. A new counselor will be named to replace Douglas MacArthur II, just appointed Ambassador to Japan. A number of new ambassadors have been or will soon be named and other changes are reportedly in the works.

Herter's part in winning congressional and public approval

used to discuss any foreign policy matters.

Dulles told newsmen, just before flying off to Paris yesterday, that Herter was "a man of great ability." Of Hoover, Dulles said he never had had "an associate of greater loyalty, great confidence, greater dedication to public service." He said he was "very sad" at Hoover's departure.

Dulles Praises Both

Hoover, 53, has been the center of controversy within the Administration because of his conservative views, views many of his associates at State have said were clearly out of line with the President's and with the concept of Mr. Eisenhower's "Modern Republicanism."

Hoover was known as one of the 4-H Club members, a name given to a powerful conservative group, including Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey, foreign aid boss John B. Hollister and former Budget Bureau chief Rowland H. Hughes. Hoover is known to have clashed with the President's last two White House foreign policy aides and he had few friends at the Capitol. Only recently he persuaded the President not to name Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, who preceded Hoover as Undersecretary of State, as a White House adviser.

Known as Internationalist

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Herter served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he was known as a member of the then small internationalist wing of the GOP. He has had considerable experience in Europe in minor diplomatic posts as a young man but has never been to the Far East. He has visited briefly in Latin America. He has known both the Dulles brothers for nearly 40 years.

Last summer Herter gained national prominence when Harold E. Stassen attempted to win him the vice presidential nomination in place of Vice President Nixon. Herter publicly rejected the idea, though there has been little doubt of his political ambitions. The Stassen-Herter boom collapsed ignominiously at the GOP Convention at San Francisco.

Stassen, who had often clashed with Hoover over foreign aid problems, yesterday praised Herter, saying: "I know he shares deeply and President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles, in matters of foreign policy."

post-war Western Europe quickly came to mind here yesterday of talk of a new aid program for the same area. His attitude on this and other aid programs for Asia and the Middle East is unknown. But no one expects him to resist such programs the way Hoover has.

Hoover's resignation spotlights Humphrey as the conservative leader in the Administration. Humphrey and Hoover together killed off Stassen's "Arc of Free Asia" aid program two years ago and they forced a compromise on Dulles' long-term aid scheme early this year, though even that failed to pass Congress.

Task for Him Seen

One of Herter's major tasks is likely to be that of improving State's increasingly poor relations with Congress, especially with the Democratic majority. Democratic Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, for example, yesterday praised the Herter choice as "a hopeful indication the President intends to develop a closer working relationship with Congress in the construction of a bipartisan foreign policy." He predicted Senators of both parties will "welcome the opportunity" to work with him.

Herter's name is likely to continue to pop up as a possible 1960 GOP presidential candidate. He has two liabilities, however. He was born in Paris of American parents, a fact raising an unclear constitutional question as to his eligibility, and he suffers from arthritis. He said yesterday that "I feel fine," but he cannot stand or walk too long at a time. He met newsmen at the home of a friend, investment banker Philip H. Watts.

The Under Secretaryship pays \$22,500, some \$2500 more than the Massachusetts governorship.

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